

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM DISTRICT
TILLAMOOK FIELD OFFICE
Categorical Exclusion Review**

A. Background

BLM Office: Tillamook Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No: N/A

Categorical Exclusion Number: DOI-BLM-ORWA-S060-2016-0008-CX **Date:** 7/11/2016

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permit – Bicycle Rides Northwest

Location of Proposed Action: The route of this event will follow along the Nestucca River National Back Country Byway within the Tillamook Field Office. The route traveled will occur within Township 3 South, Range 6 West sections 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 24; Township 3 South, Range 7 West Sections 13, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32 and 33; and Township 4 South, Range 7 West sections 6 and 7. The event will be limited to the existing paved and gravel roadway and Dove Recreation Area (campground).

Land Use Allocation(s): Late Successional Reserve (LSR), Riparian Reserve (RR) and Adaptive Management Area (AMA).

Description of Proposed Action: The proposal is to allow Bicycle Rides Northwest to conduct a one-day bicycle event involving approximately 300 riders along the Nestucca River National Back Country Byway on Thursday, August 4, 2016. A Special Recreation Permit would be issued to authorize travel along the Nestucca River National Back Country Byway and the use of Dove recreation area.

The event ride will travel from Carlton to Tillamook. A rest stop will be available at Dove recreation site where cyclists will be provided food, water, sanitation facilities, and bicycle repair. The permittee will provide all services and will be responsible for garbage collection and disposal in association with the event. The course will be well marked using both signs and cone placement. Additionally, 4'x 4' "Bicycles on the Roadway" signs will be placed to inform other road users of bicycle presence along the route. Riders are responsible for following the rules of the road and are advised not to ride two-abreast. Traffic will not be stopped or blocked for this event.

Support vehicles will consist of passenger vans, one van will have trailer with portable toilets. Event set-up at Dove campground will begin at 7:00 a.m. on August 4, 2016 and will be removed at approximately 3:00 p.m. the same day. All support vehicle personnel and rest stop attendants are first aid certified and will have both cell and satellite phone capabilities. Yamhill and Tillamook Counties, as well as the Oregon Department of Transportation will be notified of the event and appropriate permits attained. The route will be well marked and all participants will be supplied a map of the route. All signs and route markers for this event will be removed

once that day's events are complete.

Project Design Features (Stipulations for Permittee):

- Aesthetics: Permittee shall protect the scenic and aesthetic values of the public lands used in the operations, and maintain premises on permitted grounds and areas to acceptable standards of repair, orderliness, and cleanliness. After use, insofar as practical, the area shall be left in a natural state.
- Sanitation: Toilet facilities will be available along the travel route.
- Trash Disposal: All trash generated by the permitted operation shall be packed out of public land. No trash or litter shall be allowed to accumulate on the grounds. Trash shall not be buried on public land.
- Signage: Portable signs shall be placed at all intersections to notify traffic of "Bicycles on Roadway".
- Fire Season: When the Oregon Dept. of Forestry has instituted public use fire restrictions and the Regulated Use Closure is in effect, permittees shall follow all ODF guidelines.
- Soils: Permittee shall conduct the permitted operations on the Nestucca Access Road which is paved, except for a 2.7 mile segment between Fan Creek and Elk Creek. Limiting the action to this roadway will prevent rutting, or severe soil erosion.
- Protection of Public Property: Signs, equipment, markers, and fences or any other property found on public land shall not be damaged, destroyed, defaced, removed, or disturbed.
- Cultural Resources: Archeological and historical values including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins, historic structures, and artifacts shall not be damaged, destroyed, removed or disturbed. Any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations shall be left in place, and the Field Manager shall be notified of their discovery.

Project Design Features (BLM):

- Site Availability: BLM will reserve site 1 at Dovre campground the day of the event.
- Notifications to Forest Operators: Upon approval of the special recreation permit, the BLM will notify forest operators of the permitted activity. The notification will inform operators of the expected 300 bicycle riders, and associated support vehicles, using the Nestucca Access Road between Carlton and Beaver, Oregon on August 4, 2016. Bicycles will be traveling from Carlton starting between the hours of 6:30 am and 8:00 am traveling toward Beaver and on to Tillamook with a food stop at Dovre Campground. Cyclists are expected to be staggered with the last riders leaving Dovre campground by 3:00 pm.

A. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the 1995 Salem District Resource & Management Plan (RMP, p. 41), which directs the following:

- Provide for a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected demand within the planning area.
- Continue to provide non-motorized recreation opportunities and create additional opportunities where consistent with other management objectives.

- Support locally sponsored tourism initiatives and community economic strategies by providing recreation projects and programs with both short- and long-term benefits.

The proposed action is further consistent with the:

- *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standard and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, dated April, 1994;
- *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M ROD, January 2001);

B. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (H) 1, which allows for issuing Special Recreation Permits for day-use “that impacts no more than three staging area acres; and/ or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
A/ Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No
Rationale: All proposed activities would follow established rules concerning health and safety.		
B/ Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics such as: historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, national natural landmarks, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, national monuments, migratory birds, other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No
Rationale: The event would traverse along the Nestucca River on the existing Nestucca Access Road. The river corridor is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) due to its remarkable scenic quality. The event would not compromise any of the outstandingly remarkable values of the ACEC.		
C/ Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?		No
Rationale: Based on experience, this type of activity has no predicted environmental effects from the proposed action that may be considered highly controversial nor are there any unresolved conflicts concerning alternatives uses.		
D/ Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No
Rationale: Experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown environmental risks.		

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
E/ Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? <p>Rationale: Similar actions have taken place throughout the district with no evidence suggesting that this type of project will establish a precedent or decision for future action. Each special recreation permit is processed according to BLM regulations which review past performance, states stipulations on issuing a permit, mitigation measures, safety measures to be taken, and record keeping.</p>		No
F/ Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? <p>Rationale: The BLM has conducted this type of activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects.</p>		No
G/ Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office? <p>Rationale: No listed or eligible properties exist in the project area.</p>		No
H/ Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Fisheries: Bicycles travel on existing paved and gravel roads. No aquatic habitat will be disturbed by the proposed activities. No effects to ESA listed Oregon Coast Coho or designated Critical Habitat will be anticipated.</p> <p>Wildlife: Bicycles will travel along paved and gravel roads. No adjacent suitable habitat will be disturbed by the increased activities – no effect.</p> <p>Botany/Fungi: Travel is restricted to existing paved and gravel routes and therefore would not disturb vegetation. There is no listed plant species habitat along the route.</p>		No
I/ Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? <p>Rationale: Road and trail usage follows all known Federal, State, local, Tribal laws, or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>		No
J/ Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)? <p>Rationale: The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.</p>		No
K/ Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		No

Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
Rationale: The proposed route should not limit access or adversely affect the physical integrity of ceremonial or sacred Indian sites on Federal lands.		
		No
Rationale: Since the event occurs primarily on paved roads, there are few opportunities for disturbing mineral soil or otherwise creating habitat for noxious weed species. The risk rating for any adverse impacts from the spread of noxious weeds through the implementation of this project is low.		

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 (see Table 1, above) apply.

C. Specialist Review and Signature

Name	Resource	Initial
Andy Pampush	NEPA Compliance	ATP
Debra Drake	Recreation Planner/Team Lead	DLD
Steve Bahe	Wildlife	SAB
Brian Christensen	Timber	BMC

Authorized Official:  _____ **Date:** 7/14/16 _____
Name: Karen Schank
Title: Tillamook Field Manager

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this CX review contact Debra Drake, Bureau of Land Management, Salem District office, 1717 Fabry Road, Salem, Oregon at (503) 375-5667.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM DISTRICT
TILLAMOOK FIELD OFFICE**

NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DECISION RECORD
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S060-2016-0008-CX


PROPOSED ACTION

The proposal is to allow Bicycle Rides Northwest to conduct a one-day bicycle event along the Nestucca River National Back Country Byway on Thursday, August 4, 2016. A Special Recreation Permit would be issued to authorize travel along the Nestucca River National Back Country Byway and the use of Dovre recreation area. The Proposed Action and location are described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation DOI-BLM-ORWA-S060-2016-0008-CX. The duration of the permit would be for one day.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

I have determined that the proposed action, which qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department of Interior Manual 516 DM 11.9 (H) 1, involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to authorize the issuance of the Special Recreation Permit to Bicycle Rides Northwest for the use of the Nestucca Access Road for an organized bicycle-riding event.

Authorized Official: _____


Karen Schank
Field Manager
Tillamook Field Office

Date: _____



EFFECTIVE DATE OF DECISION

This is a land decision on a Special Recreation Permit in accordance with BLM regulations at 43 CFR Part 2930. BLM decisions under 43 CFR Subpart 2931.8(b) go into effect immediately and will remain in effect unless a stay is granted on appeal under 43 CFR Subpart 4.21(b) by the Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals or an Appeals Board.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board or IBLA) according to 43 CFR Part 4 – Department of Interior Hearings and Appeals Procedures, found on the internet at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2002-title43-vol1/xml/CFR-2002-title43-vol1-part4.xml>

Appeals can be made by those who have a “legally cognizable interest” to which there is a substantial likelihood that the action authorized in this decision would cause injury, and who

have established themselves as a “party to the case.” (See 43 CFR subpart 4.410). If an appeal is taken, a written notice of appeal must be filed with Karen Schank, Tillamook Field Manager, 4610 Third Street, Tillamook, OR 97141 by close of business (4:30 p.m.) not more than 30 days after the date of service of the decision. Only signed hard copies of a notice of appeal received in the Tillamook Field Office at the address above will be accepted. Appeals faxed, e-mailed, or sent by any other electronic format will not be considered. In order to request a stay of the decision, an appellant must file a petition for stay at the same time as the appeal in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4.21(b).

The Tillamook Field Manager plans to issue the permit directly following the date of the posting of this decision on the BLM’s NEPA Register web page, which can be found on the internet at:

<http://tinyurl.com/BicycleRidesNorthwestCX>